the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26.4.2001. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha as the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002 on 11.3.2002. The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 15.3.2002.

Demand of actual transportation charges

4561. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has respresented to the Union Government for allowing actual road transportation charges in respect of lifting of levy sugar price equalisation fund scheme.

(b) If so, whether Government are considering the proposal; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat represented to the Central Government regarding reimbursement of actual road transportation charges. The State Government has been informed, *inter alia,* that Central Government has revised the margin guidelines on 4.11.96 and, as per these guidelines, the transportation charges with effect from 1.4.96 are being reimbursed at a flat rate for each state to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure duly approved by the State Government concerned for previous year.

Cases pending before district forum in Pondicherry

4562. SHRI CP. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the District Forum and the State Commission in the Union territory of Pondicherry;

(b) the number of cases filed and disposed of during the last three' years; and

(c) the amount paid as salary, daily allowance and travelling allowances to the District Forum and State Commission during the period 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As reported by the Government of Pondicherry, 37 cases and 22 cases were pending before the State Commission and District Forum respectively as on 30.4.2002.

(b) Government of Pondicherry has reported that during the last three years, 151 cases were filed before the State Commission and 166 cases were disposed of by the State Commission. Similarly, 373 cases were filed in the District Forum and 391 cases were disposed of by the District Forum.

(c) As per the information furnished by the Government of Pondicherry, during the year 2000-2001, Rs. 2,58,69/- and Rs. 46,630/- have been paid for salaries, honorarium and allowances for the District Forum and the State Commission, respectively.

During the year 2001-2002, Rs. 4,16,546/- and Rs. 2,16,764/-have been paid for salaries, honorarium and allowances for the District Forum and the State Commission, respectively.

Distress sale of Paddy and Wheat

4563. SHRI CP. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite farmers have been given minimum support price for their produce, the cases of distress sale paddy and wheat been reported from various States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;